

The rubber crop of Brazil, for the season 1901-02, was the largest ever produced—29,908 tons—and that of 1902-03 is only 108 tons less. Of last season's crop, Europe took 15,201 tons, and the United States 14,566 tons, an increase in shipments to the United States over the previous year of 510 tons, while the shipments to Europe fell off correspondingly.

The Indian Textile Journal reports that a movement is on foot for extensive manufacture of aloë fibre. A Madras syndicate has approached the railways for leasing the aloë hedges along their lines for this purpose, and about 3,000 acres of land are said to have been acquired not far from Madras. In view of the extensive cultivation of plants, the venture is expected to prove a thriving industry in Southern India.

A process claiming to make materials waterproof, without interfering with their permeability to air or perspiration, is the subject of a German patent. The goods are first impregnated with a solution of acetate of alumina, and after drying are brought into another solution containing wool fat, wool sweat, or lanolin, in a suitable fluid solvent. Part combines with the alumina, and the excess is squeezed out.

Among the many interesting machines which the Crompton-Knowles Loom Works turn out is one for weaving cloth from wood fibre. This cloth while in process possesses all the lustre and brilliancy of silk, and one is amazed when told that the yarn is spun from wood. This wood cloth is adaptable for certain kinds of dress in the tropics and to the upholsterer man it suggests many applications in the field of drapery and decoration.

From a communication sent to the German press by representatives of the jute industry, it appears that the limitation of the output is quite as great in Austria as in Germany. Further, it is stated that several of the large German jute spinners are about to take up the manufacture, on a large scale, of cellulose yarns. Cellulose yarns, compared with jute yarns, are at a disadvantage in respect of durability and power to resist damp, but on the other hand, they are smooth, do not teaze, they are odorless, and have the advantage of being cheaper than jute yarns.

All kinds of cotton cordage, including clothes line, wrapping twine, mops, etc., is very firm and somewhat scarce in United States markets. Some of the factories have shut down, owing to the fact that they cannot make cordage at the price which they are getting, and cannot force the price upon the present market. Owing, perhaps, to the letting up of the demand for binder twine and the fact that there will be a surplus left over, the prices on sisal cordage have declined. Some of the mills that have been making twine have gone back to rope and other kinds of cordage.

Parker's laundry, at Peterboro, has installed a machine by which anything from a handkerchief to a tablecloth or bed sheet can be washed and ironed at low cost, and without damaging the goods, as the rubbing of the iron is dispensed with. The cloth is passed on to a large roller, on which four other rollers revolve. The four rollers, which are about eight inches in diameter, are well padded, and do not injure the cloth in the slightest. The large roller is made of steel. It is hollow, and when working, steam is passed into it, thus heating it to any required temperature. The operation is rapid, and a beautiful finish given to the goods.

According to a French paper, there is a man in London who possesses a remarkable straw hat. For years past he has followed the King about at foreign water-places, and wherever he saw the Prince of Wales, as the King was then, drinking anything through a straw, he pounced down upon the straws and added them to his collection. Last year this strange collector had gathered such a bundle of straws that he had a hat made of them, and is now the proud possessor of a head-covering which he claims, and probably with justice, is absolutely unique.

## Among the Mills

Co-operation is one of the guiding principles of industry to-day. It applies to newspapers as to everything else. Take a share in "The Canadian Journal of Fabrics" by contributing occasionally such items as may come to your knowledge, and receive as dividend an improved paper.

Issherwood & Sons are starting a woolen mill at Fort Frances, Ont.

The Empire Carpet Co., of St. Catharines, has rebuilt the part of their factory recently burned, and is fitting it up with improved machinery.

T. Berry, superintendent of the Canada Woolen Mills at Hespeler, has resigned and is succeeded by Mr. Gledhill of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England.

The York and Cornwall cotton mills at St. John, N.B., had to shut down for a few days on account of shafting in the dyehouse being broken. A new roof was put on the building and other repairs made during the shut-down.

It is announced that the capacity of the Minnesota prison twine plant at Stillwater is to be increased again. This year the plant produced 7,000,000 pounds and present plans are to increase the output to 9,000,000 for next harvest.

The Slingsby Mfg. Co., of Brantford, has installed five new sets of 60-inch cards and a 384-spindle mule. The factory has been enlarged since the fire of December 9th last, and is now running night and day. Bed and horse blankets are the chief lines manufactured. Titus Berry is superintendent.

The International Harvester Company intends opening a binder twine factory in connection with its works at Hamilton. Building operations will be begun at once. About 500 hands, largely women, will be employed at first, but the company expects to increase the number to 1,000 within a year.

The new building which the Toronto Carpet Mfg. Co. is erecting is expected to be ready for the machinery in January. It will be devoted to the carding and spinning of wool and worsted yarns, and the manufacture of Wilton and Brussels carpet. The making of Axminster has been dropped, and the old factory will be occupied by the ingrain and Smyrna plants.

The Dominion Belting Co., Hamilton, is turning out about 6,000 feet a day of its cotton duck belting. Its plant occupies a two-story brick building adjoining the Hamilton Cotton Mills Co. The belting is made from cotton duck manufactured by the Hamilton Cotton Mills Co. It is what is known as stitched oiled cotton duck belting, the duck being treated by a special preparation perfected by the superintendent of the company, the use of which improves its tensile strength, pliability and weight, and prevents it from stretching. The company is strictly Canadian, having been organized last January by John J. McGill, of Montreal; C. T. Grantham, J. M. Young and David Bell, of Hamilton.